

V.

BATTLE NEAR CRAB BOTTOM.

The writer received the following items of history from the late William McClintic, Esq., of Bath County. This gentleman was a prominent citizen, and accepted most of the important county offices in the gift of his fellow citizens, and he had a passion for history. He has a grandson living in our county. Dr F. T. McClintic, who ranks high as a physician.

Mr McClintic says that when the Indians gained their victory near the mouth of Falling Spring Run, in Alleghany, 1768, they were so elated that one hundred and eighty warriors pressed on as far as Kerr's Creek, where some persons were slain and others taken prisoners. On their return they crossed the Warm Springs Mountain near the springs, and camped close by the springs. The next day they camped on Back Creek, near the place where John Gwin resided a few years since, eight or ten miles above Mountain Grove.

As soon as possible, three companies under Captains Lewis, Dickinson, and Christie started in pursuit. Christie's company was from near Waynesboro. The Indians were followed to the north fork of the South

Branch of the Potomac. The scouts discovered the encampment not far from Harper's Mill. Strange to say the Indians seemed to be heedless of danger. Some were dressing deer skins, mending or making moccasins, some cooking and hunting and fishing.

The scouts having made their report, it was debated whether the attack be made at once or wait until night. It seemed most likely that the Indian scouts might get on the trail of the whites before night and hence be warned of their danger, and it was concluded best to attack them without delay.

The three companies were to be deployed in such a manner as to invest the camp and to begin the attack simultaneously. Major Vance was sent forward to a point overlooking the encampment, with instructions that if the Indians showed any signs of having discovered the approach of the whites to signify it by firing a gun. Lewis and Dickinson had nearly reached the points they wished in order to open the attack, but Christie had not quite reached his position, when the signal was heard. Lewis and Dickinson rushed in. Unfortunately, Christie's men set up a tremendous yelling and began to rush toward the scene of action. The Indians, with much presence of mind, retreated in the direction where there was no noise, and what happened to be the course most favorable for their escape, so they succeeded in making good their retreat with but a slight loss of life. One warrior came into camp after a short lull, and dodged from tree to tree, escaping the shots discharged and the stones and tomahawks thrown at him until he reached his gun, and

then he darted off, apparently unharmed.

Blame was attached to Major Vance for being in too much of a hurry in giving the signal for the attack, but he and his companions made what was decided to be a good excuse. Major Vance said they happened on two Indians, one leading a horse and the other holding a buck upon it, and they were coming in a direction by which they would unavoidably be discovered, so it was thought better to shoot them than be discovered, and the Indians in camp have timely warning of the approach of the pursuers.

All the plunder of any value found in the camp, horses, blankets, guns, knives, pots, and kettles, were taken to Waynesboro and about twelve hundred dollars realized by their sale.

LACKEY'S SONG.

On page 567 reference is made to one Lackey singing the "Shawnee Battle Song," commemorative of the battle of Point Pleasant. As a matter of curiosity the words are herewith reproduced.

Let us mind the tenth day of October,
'Seventy-four, which caused woe,
The Indian savages they did cover
The pleasant banks of the Ohio.

The battle beginning in the morning,
Throughout the day it lasted sore
Until the evening shades were returning down
Upon the banks of the Ohio.

Judgment proceeds to execution,
Let fame throughout all dangers go,
Our heroes fought with resolution,
Upon the banks of the Ohio.

Seven score lay dead and wounded
Of champions that did face the foe,
By which the heathen were confounded
Upon the banks of the Ohio.

Colonel Lewis and some noble Captains
Did down to death like Uriah go:
Alas ! their heads wound up in napkins,
Upon the banks of the Ohio.

Kings lamented their mighty fallen
Upon the mountains of Gilboa,
And now we mourn for brave Hugh Allen,
Far from the banks of the Ohio.

Oh bless the mighty King of Heaven
For all his wondrous works below:
Who hath to us the victory given
Upon the banks of the Ohio.